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AUTHORITY
QUASAR
DUEL FOR The STAR BRAND
DEATH AWAITS the LOSER!
DIRECT EDITION
GRANT AND

WENDELL VAUGHN . . . THE FIRST EARTH MAN EVER APPOINTED PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE. BONDED TO THE ENERGY-TRANSFORMING QUANTUM-BANDS THAT ARE BOTH WEAPONS AND SYMBOLS OF HIS STATION, HE FIGHTS AN ONGOING BATTLE TO DEFEND ALL LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE FROM COSMIC EVIL!

STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

QUASAR

WOMEN ON THE VERGE

MANHATTAN'S UPPER WEST SIDE...
IT WAS REALLY WEIRD, EDDY, GOING WITHOUT MY QUANTUM-BANDS FOR SO MANY WEEKS--
--MY WRISTS JUST COULDN'T GET USED TO BEING NAKED!
BUT YOU HAD THIS ALTERNATIVE POWER-SOURCE YOU CALL THE STARBRAND? I'VE NOT HEARD OF SUCH A THING IN ALL MY STUDIES.
YOU WOULDN'T. IT'S FROM A WHOLE OTHER MULTIVERSE AS THE ONE OUR UNIVERSE IS IN. I GOT BLOWN THERE BY MISTAKE WHILE QUANTUM-JUMPING...
...AND THE STARBRAND WAS THE ONLY THING POWERFUL ENOUGH TO BLAST ME BACK HERE.
FASCINATING. AND YOU SAY THE STARBRAND HAS BURNED ITSELF OUT?
YEAH, AS FAR AS I CAN TELL.

MARK GRUENWALD WRITER • GRANT MIEHM GUEST PENCILER • RALPH CABRERA INKER • JANICE CHIANG LETTERER
PAUL BECTON COLORIST • MIKE ROCKWITZ EDITOR • RALPH MACCHIO GROUP EDITOR • TOM DEFALCO BRAND EDITOR

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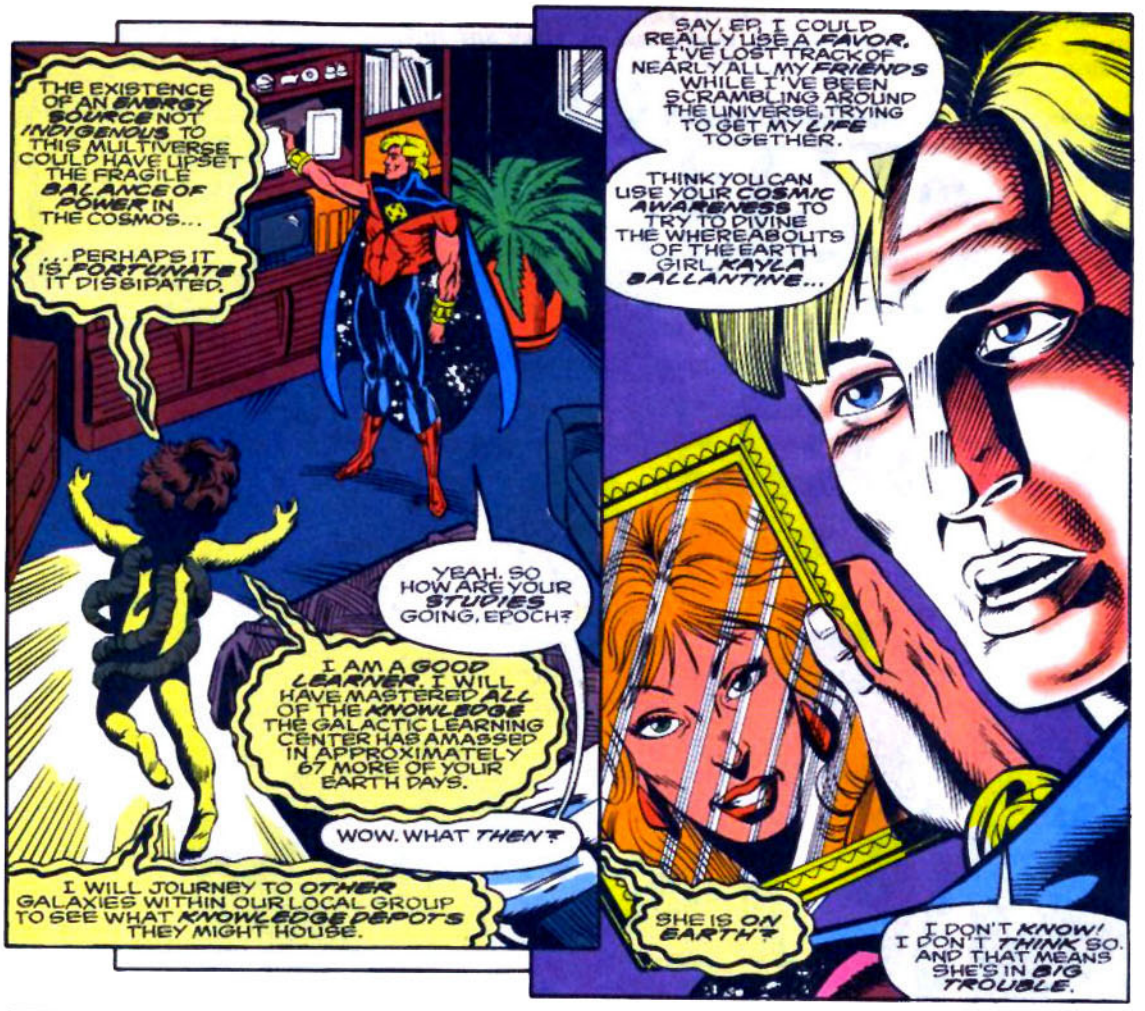
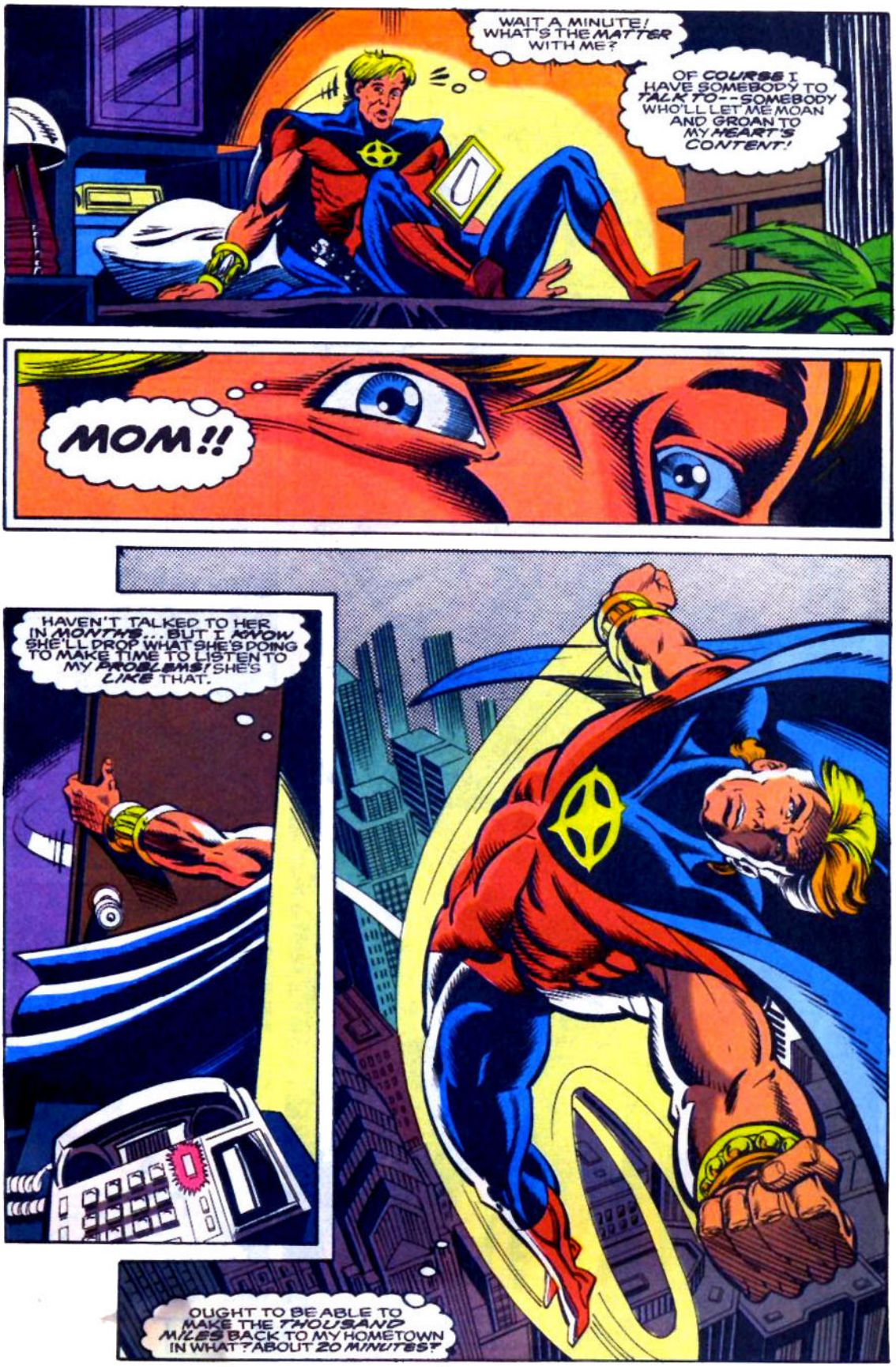
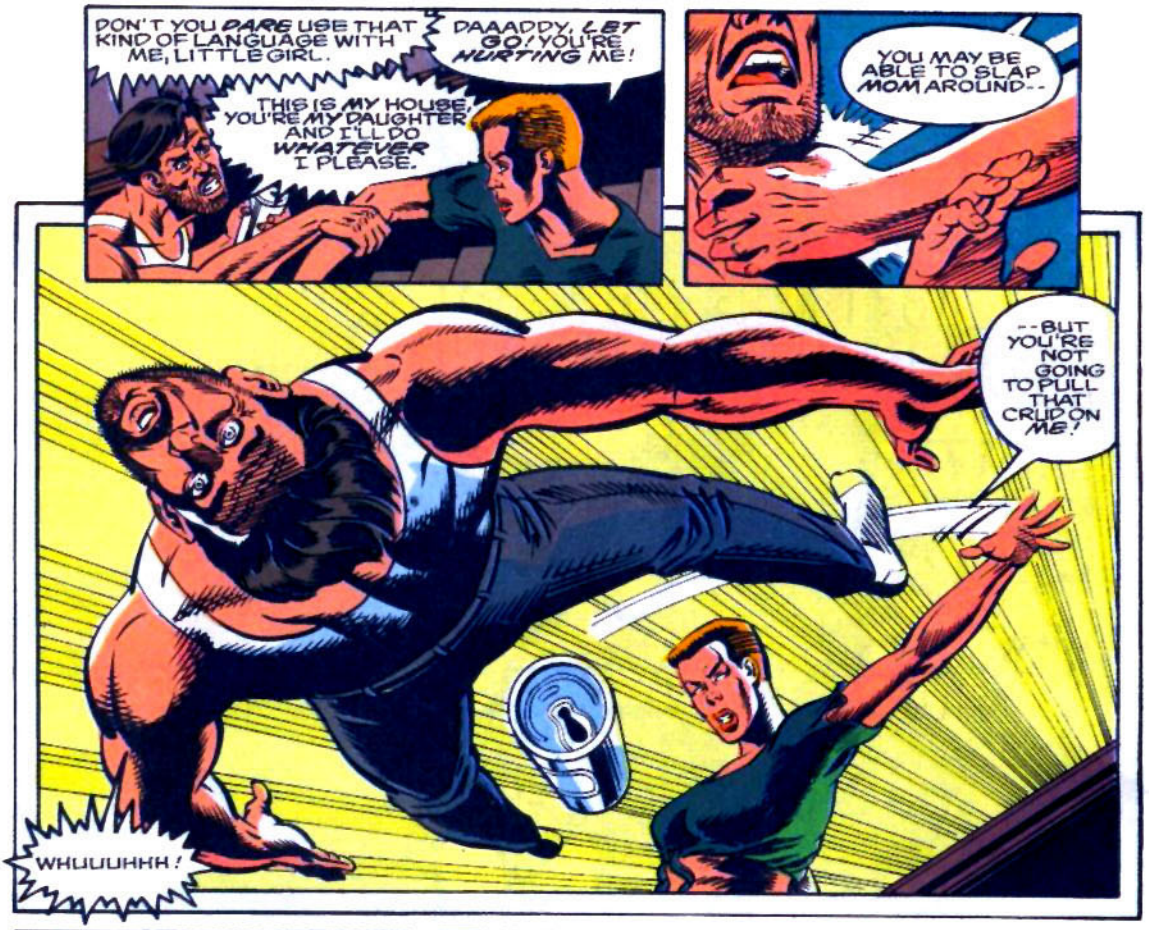

THE EXISTENCE OF AN ENERGY SOURCE NOT INDIGENOUS TO THIS MULTIVERSE COULD HAVE UPSET THE FRAGILE BALANCE OF POWER IN THE COSMOS...
...PERHAPS IT IS FORTUNATE IT DISSIPATED.
YEAH. SO HOW ARE YOUR STUDIES GOING, EPOCH?
I AM A GOOD LEARNER. I WILL HAVE MASTERED ALL OF THE KNOWLEDGE THE GALACTIC LEARNING CENTER HAS AMASSED IN APPROXIMATELY 67 MORE OF YOUR EARTH DAYS.
WOW. WHAT THEN?
I WILL JOURNEY TO OTHER GALAXIES WITHIN OUR LOCAL GROUP TO SEE WHAT KNOWLEDGE DEPOTS THEY MIGHT HOUSE.
SAY, EP, I COULD REALLY USE A FAVOR. I'VE LOST TRACK OF NEARLY ALL MY FRIENDS WHILE I'VE BEEN SCRAMBLING AROUND THE UNIVERSE, TRYING TO GET MY LIFE TOGETHER.
THINK YOU CAN USE YOUR COSMIC AWARENESS TO TRY TO DIVINE THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE EARTH GIRL KAYLA BALLANTINE...
SHE IS ON EARTH?
I DON'T KNOW! I DON'T THINK SO. AND THAT MEANS SHE'S IN BIG TROUBLE.

I WILL TRY, MY GODPARENT. PLEASE BE PATIENT... EVEN WITH COSMIC AWARENESS, THE UNIVERSE IS A LARGE PLACE TO SEARCH.
RIGHT. LATER.
WHEWWWW. BOY I'VE NEVER REALLY FIGURED OUT HOW TO BE A REALLY EFFECTIVE PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE, LIKE EPOCH'S MOTHER, EON, APPOINTED ME TO BE...

...AND NOW I'M EVEN HAVING PROBLEMS SAFEGUARDING PEOPLE I CARE ABOUT.
NOT JUST KAYLA, EITHER. I DITCHED MY COSMIC COMPANIONS MAKKARI AND KISMET WELL OVER A MONTH AGO*--AND HAVEN'T GOTTEN AROUND TO HOOKING BACK UP WITH THEM, EITHER.
THAT LEAVES ME WITH NO ONE TO FRET ABOUT KAYLA'S WEIRD DISAPPEARANCE TO.
*IT WAS ACTUALLY ISSUE #37, QUAZE. -- MINDFUL MIKE

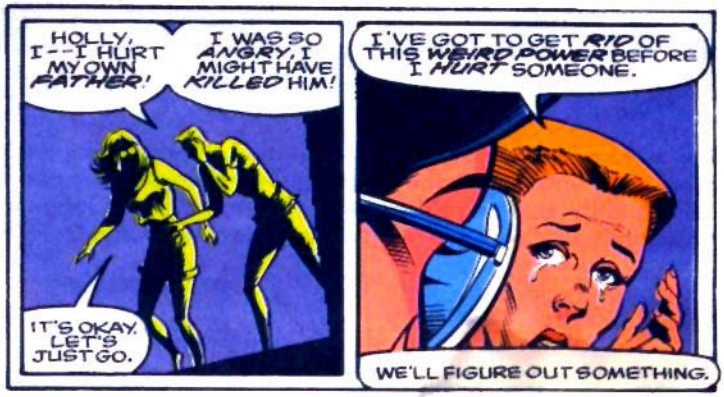

WAIT A MINUTE! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ME?
OF COURSE I HAVE SOMEBODY TO TALK TO--SOMEBODY WHO'LL LET ME MOAN AND GROAN TO MY HEART'S CONTENT!
MOM!!
HAVEN'T TALKED TO HER IN MONTHS... BUT I KNOW SHE'LL DROP WHAT SHE'S DOING TO MAKE TIME TO LISTEN TO MY PROBLEMS! SHE'S LIKE THAT.
OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO MAKE THE THOUSAND MILES BACK TO MY HOMETOWN IN WHAT? ABOUT 20 MINUTES?

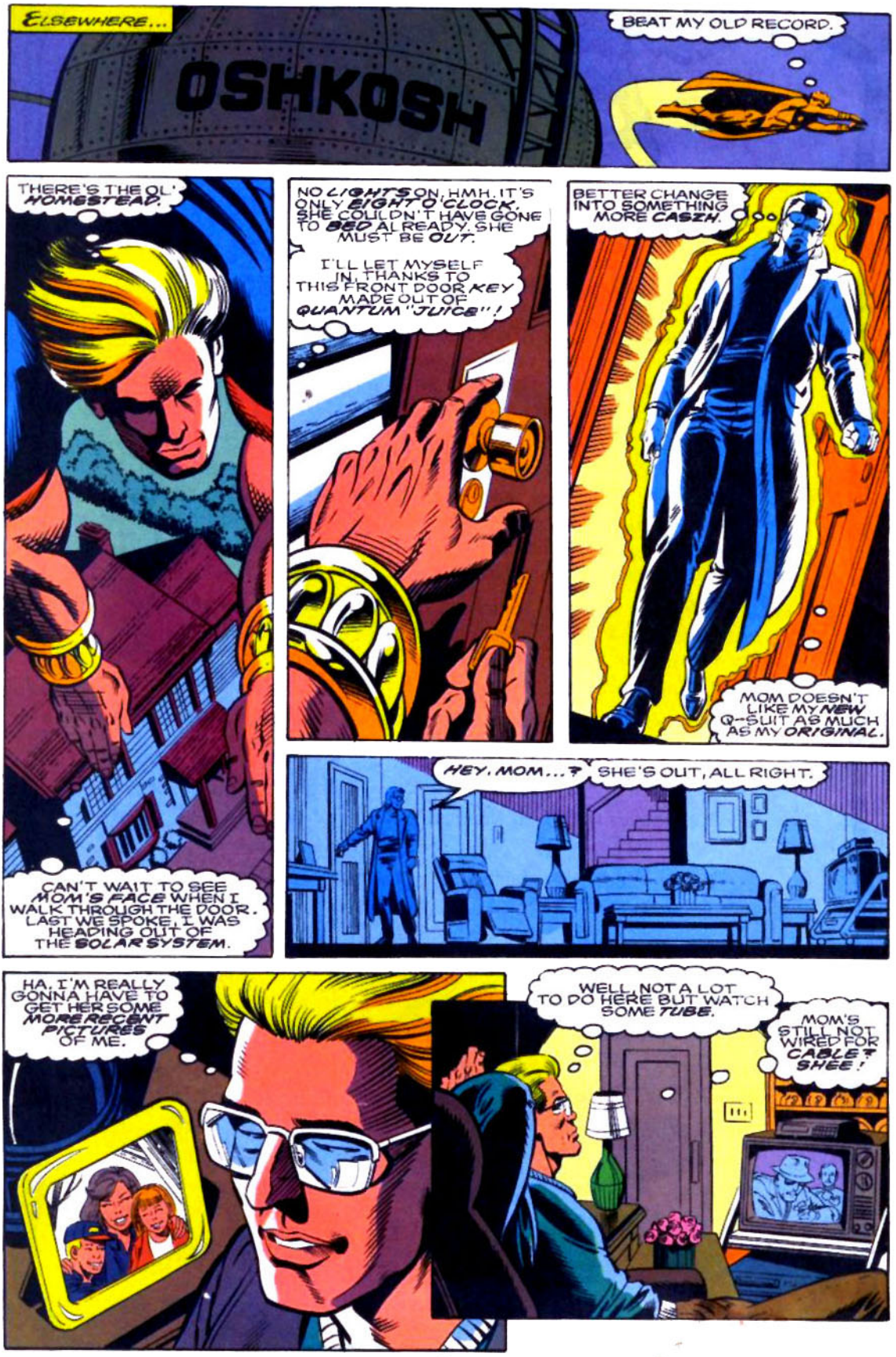
MEANWHILE, IN THE BOROUGH OF STATEN ISLAND...
YOU SURE YOU WANT TO DO THIS, KAYLA?
NOT EXACTLY. BUT... I MEAN, IT'S JUST POSSIBLE MY FAMILY MIGHT HAVE MISSED ME WHILE WE WERE TRAIPSING ALL OVER THE UNIVERSE.
NOK NOK
HERE GOES.
LORDWAMIGHTY. WHAT DID YOU DO TO YOUR HAIR?
KAYLA...?! THAT YOU?
I, UH, DAMAGED IT AND HAD TO GET IT CUT REAL SHORT, DAD.
YOU THINK YOU CAN COME AND GO AS YOU PLEASE. DON'TCHA? YOU MOVE OUT, WE DON'T HEAR FROM YOU FOR WEEKS AND WEEKS, WORRYIN' YER MA HALF SICK AND NOW YOU GOT THE NERVE--
DAD, PLEASE DON'T START WITH ME.
UH, THIS IS MY FRIEND, MOLLY, AND-- WE JUST CAME TO PICK UP SOME MORE OF MY STUFF.
YOU DON'T KNOW THE S#%7 I'VE BEEN THROUGH!


DON'T YOU DARE USE THAT KIND OF LANGUAGE WITH ME, LITTLE GIRL.
DAAADDY, LET GO! YOU'RE HURTING ME!
THIS IS MY HOUSE, YOU'RE MY DAUGHTER AND I'LL DO WHATEVER I PLEASE.
YOU MAY BE ABLE TO SLAP MOM AROUND--
--BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO PULL THAT CRUD ON ME!
WHUUUHHH!

BRAAAK
D-DADDY--?

GET THE $%&# AWAY FROM ME!
DADDY?


HOLLY, I--I HURT MY OWN FATHER!
I WAS SO ANGRY, I MIGHT HAVE KILLED HIM!
IT'S OKAY. LET'S JUST GO.
I'VE GOT TO GET RID OF THIS WEIRD POWER BEFORE I HURT SOMEONE.
WE'LL FIGURE OUT SOMETHING.


ELSEWHERE...
OSHKOSH
BEAT MY OLD RECORD.
THERE'S THE OL' HOMESTEAD.
CAN'T WAIT TO SEE MOM'S FACE WHEN I WALK THROUGH THE DOOR. LAST WE SPOKE, I WAS HEADING OUT OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM.
NO LIGHTS ON. HMH. IT'S ONLY EIGHT O'CLOCK. SHE COULDN'T HAVE GONE TO BED ALREADY. SHE MUST BE OUT.
I'LL LET MYSELF IN. THANKS TO THIS FRONT DOOR KEY MADE OUT OF QUANTUM "JUICE"!
BETTER CHANGE INTO SOMETHING MORE CASZH.
MOM DOESN'T LIKE MY NEW Q-SUIT AS MUCH AS MY ORIGINAL.
HEY, MOM...?
SHE'S OUT, ALL RIGHT.
HA. I'M REALLY GONNA HAVE TO GET HER SOME MORE RECENT PICTURES OF ME.
WELL, NOT A LOT TO DO HERE BUT WATCH SOME TUBE.
MOM'S STILL NOT WIRED FOR CABLE? SHEE!

TWO HOURS LATER...
SHE'S STILL NOT HOME. I'M STARTING TO GET... CONCERNED.
BETTER CALL AROUND, SEE IF SHE'S AT ONE OF HER FRIENDS' HOUSES.

YEP. SHE STILL KEEPS A LIST OF SPEED DIAL NUMBERS NEXT TO THE PHONE.

I'LL START AT THE TOP. TRY 'EM ALL.

FIVE CALLS LATER...
UH, HI, MRS. OHM? THIS IS WENDELL VAUGHN. DOES MY MOTHER HAPPEN TO BE OVER AT YOUR HOUSE?
SHE... WHAT?
I SEE.
WHERE?
THANKS.

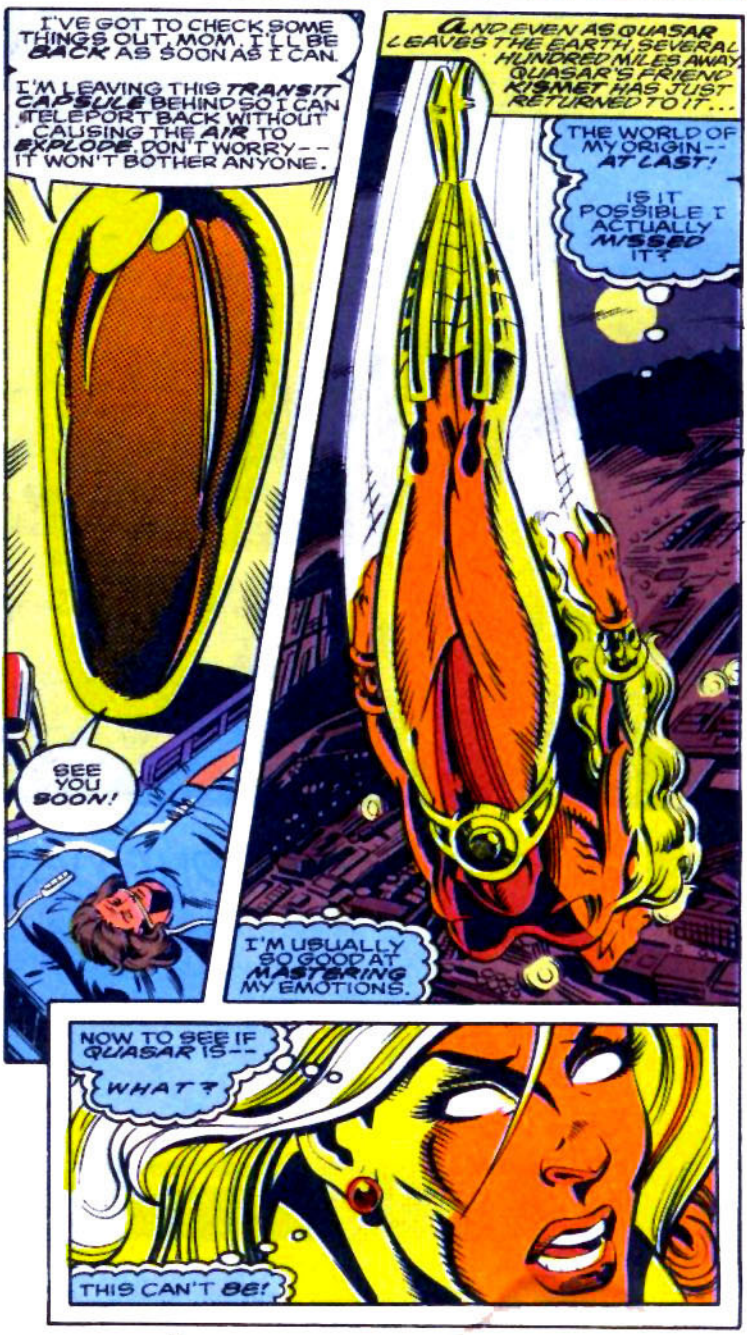
MOM!!

I WASN'T THERE FOR DAD.
...HAVE I MISSED BEING THERE FOR MOM, TOO?
STE ANNE HOSPITAL

HI. I NEED TO KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND A PATIENT. LISA VAUGHN...?
SHE WAS OPERATED ON TODAY.
VISITING HOURS ARE OVER, SIR.
I'M HER SON. I COULDN'T GET HERE TILL NOW. PLEASE... IS HER DOCTOR HERE?
I'M HER DOCTOR.
QUIET PLEASE
ADMITTING
AND...
SHE HAD A RADICAL MASTECTOMY AT 6A.M. THIS MORNING TO EXCISE A LUMP IN HER BREAST. SHE'S STABLE, DOING FINE...
CANCER...?
YES, BUT WITH ANY LUCK, THERE WILL BE NO RECURRENCE ELSEWHERE IN HER BODY.
I SEE.
CAN I BE WITH HER ALONE A WHILE, DR. CAIRNS?

MOM, I'M REALLY SORRY I'M SUCH A LOUSY SON...
ALL MY POWER, AND WHAT GOOD IS IT WHEN I CAN'T DO ANYTHING FOR THE PEOPLE I LOVE?

I FAILED DAD AND NOW--
NO! I'M NOT GOING TO FAIL YOU, MOM. I'M GOING TO FIND A WAY TO HELP YOU.
I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOUR BODY DO THIS TO YOU!


I'VE GOT TO CHECK SOME THINGS OUT, MOM. I'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS I CAN.
I'M LEAVING THIS TRANSIT CAPSULE BEHIND SO I CAN TELEPORT BACK WITHOUT CAUSING THE AIR TO EXPLODE. DON'T WORRY-- IT WON'T BOTHER ANYONE.
SEE YOU SOON!
AND EVEN AS QUASAR LEAVES THE EARTH, SEVERAL HUNDRED MILES AWAY, QUASAR'S FRIEND KISMET HAS JUST RETURNED TO IT...
THE WORLD OF MY ORIGIN-- AT LAST!
IS IT POSSIBLE I ACTUALLY MISSED IT?
I'M USUALLY SO GOOD AT MASTERING MY EMOTIONS.
NOW TO SEE IF QUASAR IS--
WHAT?
THIS CAN'T BE!

THE DISTINCT *ENERGY SIGNATURE* I FELT NEAR THE PLANET *SCADAM*-- THE ENERGY THAT DEMOLISHED THE *MARAUDING FLEET*--

--I FEEL IT *HERE ON EARTH!*

I'M NOT SURE HOW THAT IS *POSSIBLE*. IN ALL MY DAYS, I NEVER FELT ITS *LIKE* BEFORE...

IT EMANATES FROM WITHIN THIS *BUILDING!*

DARE I JUST BURST INSIDE? WHAT IF IT DISPATCHES *ME* EVEN AS IT DID THE *FLEET*?

I AM TOO *CURIOUS*. I MUST FIND OUT WHAT IT IS--AT ANY *COST*.

WHOOSH

OH!

HEY!

...AND NOW TO SENSE IT *TWICE* IN TWO FAR-FLUNG SITES...?

YOU! YOU ARE AN ACQUAINTANCE OF *QUASAR! YOU* HAVE...THE POWER?!?

YOU ARE THE ONE THAT DESTROYED THE *BLACK FLEET*?

HOW DID *YOU* KNOW?

YOU *KNOW* THIS WOMAN?

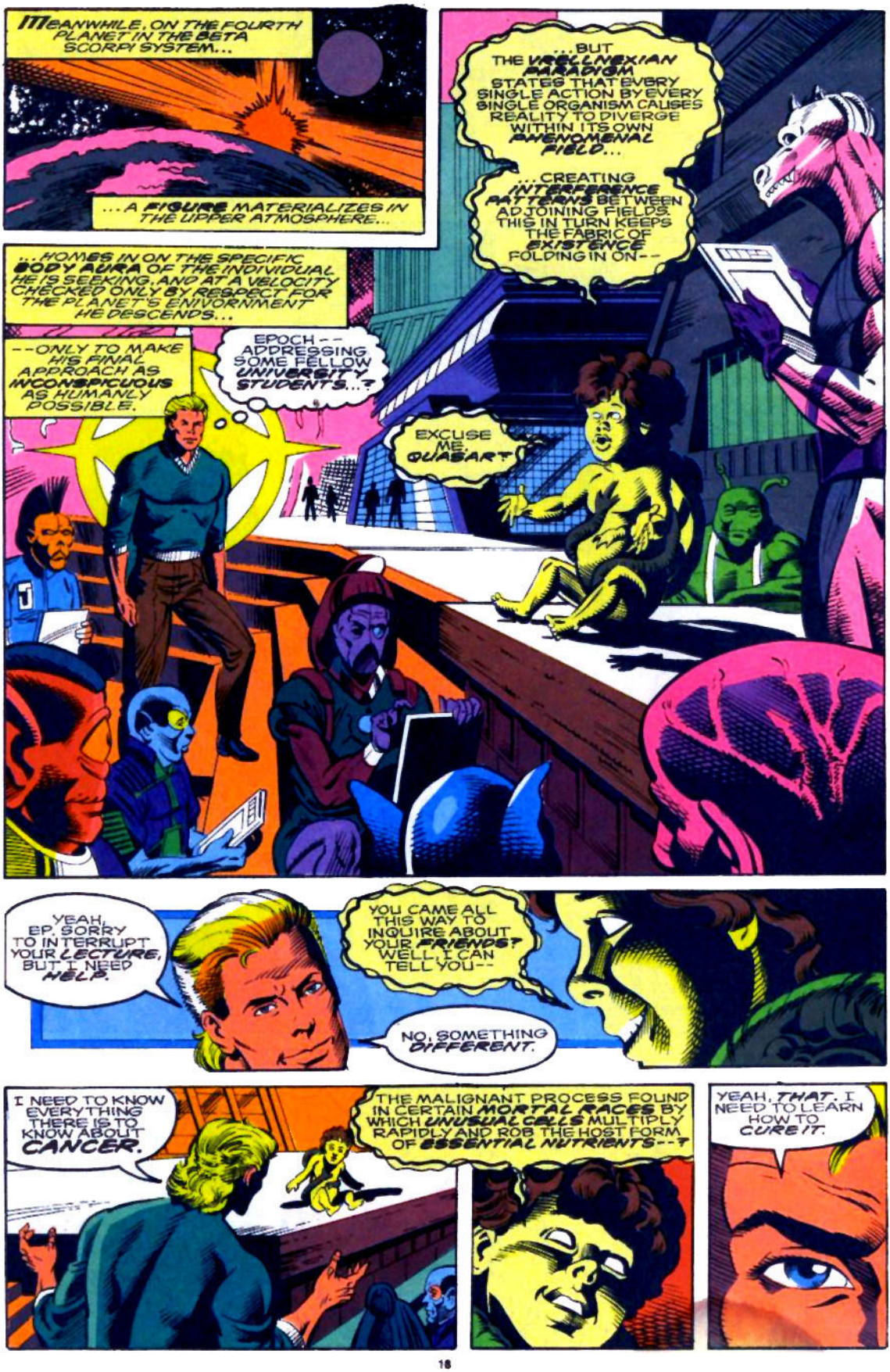
WE MET ONCE.*

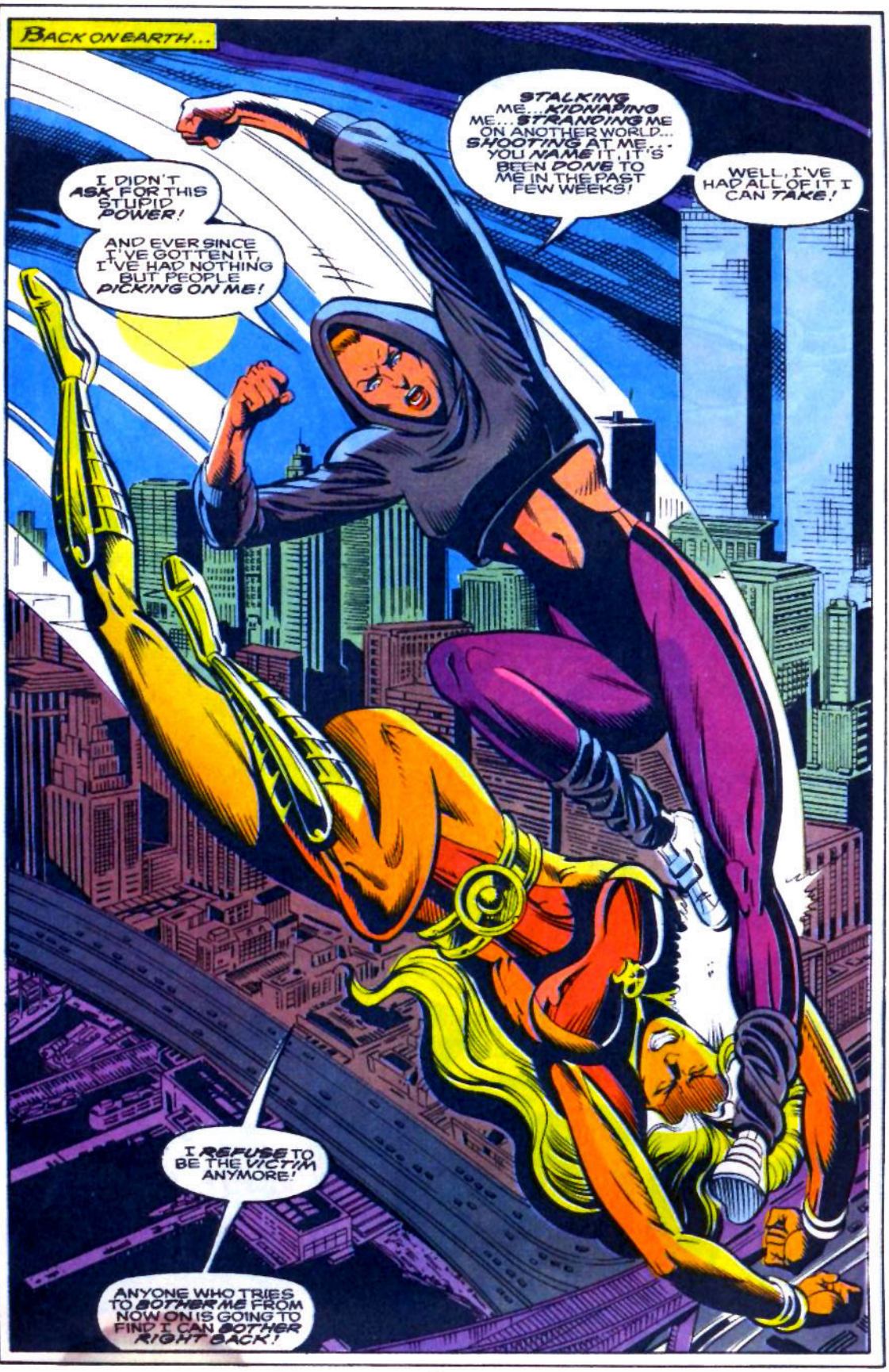
*ISSUE # 30.--M.

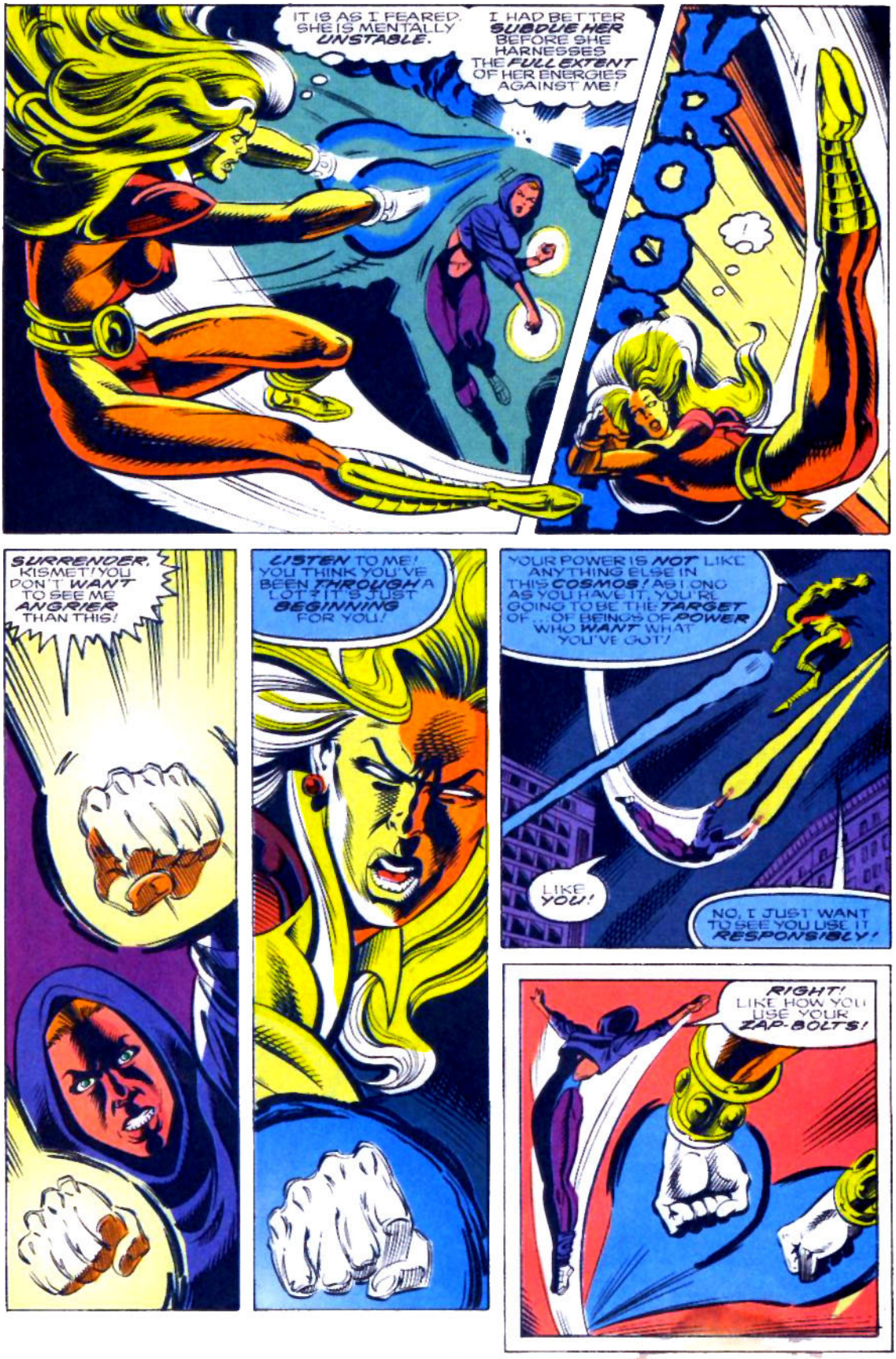
HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THE BLACK FLEET?
I WAS THERE... ON SCADAM.
WHAT?!? AND YOU DIDN'T EVEN TRY TO RESCUE US?
GET HER OUT OF MY APARTMENT, KAYLA! I JUST KNOW SHE'S GOING TO WRECK SOMETHING!
I WAS UNAWARE OF YOUR PRESENCE, HUMAN.
NAME'S KAYLA. YOU'RE CALLED "SHE"--?
KISMET.
MY FRIEND WANTS YOU OUT OF HER HOUSE, KISMET. WE'VE BOTH HAD OUR FILL OF WEIRD STUFF AND WE JUST WANT SOME DOWN TIME, OKAY?
I DESIRE TO KNOW THE NATURE OF THE POWER YOU WIELD. I HAVE NEVER BEHELD ANYTHING LIKE IT.
YOU'VE GOT TILL THE COUNT OF THREE TO TAKE A HIKE
ONE... TWO...
...THREE!
BEHOLD THIS!

WHOOPS, SORRY, HOLLY. AND THAT'S JUST WHAT YOU WERE HOPING TO AVOID!
I PROMISE I'LL--
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. IT'S THAT KISMET PERSON YOU SHOULD BE CONCERNED WITH. I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT HER.
YEAH! I EXPECT HER TO ATTACK ANY MINUTE. YOU'VE GOT TO-- TO DEFEND YOURSELF.
REALLY?
WELL, OKAY. THE LEAST I CAN DO IS TRY TO KEEP HER AWAY FROM YOU.
I HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM HER, I DON'T THINK, BUT HOLLY SEEMS MORE NERVOUS ABOUT HER, THAN SHE WAS ABOUT THE ALIENS WHO GAVE US A LIFT BACK TO EARTH!
I DIDN'T BLOW HER THAT FAR AWAY WHERE THE HECK IS SHE?
AND JUST WHAT IS HER RELATIONSHIP TO QUASAR ANYWAY?

WAS SHE REALLY ON SCADAM LIKE SHE SAID--OR DID SHE JUST READ MY MIND ABOUT IT OR SOMETHING?
SEEMS KIND OF COINCIDENTAL SHE JUST HAPPENED TO BE THERE, UNLESS SHE WAS FOLLOWING ME...!
WE MUST TALK.
OH!
YOUR POWER IS UNLIKE ANY I'VE ENCOUNTERED ANYWHERE IN ALL THE UNIVERSE. HOW DID YOU ACQUIRE IT?
LET GO OF ME!
WHAT GIVES YOU THE RIGHT TO DEMAND ANYTHING OF ME?
QUASAR IS PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE, I AM HIS CLOSEST COMPANION.
THEREFORE I--
LIKE HECK YOU'RE HIS CLOSEST COMPANION!


MEANWHILE, ON THE FOURTH PLANET IN THE BETA SCORPII SYSTEM...
...A FIGURE MATERIALIZES IN THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE...
...BUT THE VRELLNEXIAN PARADIGM STATES THAT EVERY SINGLE ACTION BY EVERY SINGLE ORGANISM CAUSES REALITY TO DIVERGE WITHIN ITS OWN PHENOMENAL FIELD...
...CREATING INTERFERENCE PATTERNS BETWEEN ADJOINING FIELDS. THIS IN TURN KEEPS THE FABRIC OF EXISTENCE FOLDING IN ON--
...HOMES IN ON THE SPECIFIC BODY AURA OF THE INDIVIDUAL HE IS SEEKING, AND AT A VELOCITY CHECKED ONLY BY RESPECT FOR THE PLANET'S ENVIORNMENT HE DESCENDS...
--ONLY TO MAKE HIS FINAL APPROACH AS INCONSPICUOUS AS HUMANLY POSSIBLE.
EPOCH--ADDRESSING SOME FELLOW UNIVERSITY STUDENTS...?
EXCUSE ME, QUASAR?
YEAH, EP. SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOUR LECTURE, BUT I NEED HELP.
YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY TO INQUIRE ABOUT YOUR FRIENDS? WELL, I CAN TELL YOU--
NO, SOMETHING DIFFERENT.
I NEED TO KNOW EVERYTHING THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT CANCER.
THE MALIGNANT PROCESS FOUND IN CERTAIN MORTAL RACES BY WHICH UNUSUAL CELLS MULTIPLY RAPIDLY AND ROB THE HOST FORM OF ESSENTIAL NUTRIENTS--?
YEAH, THAT. I NEED TO LEARN HOW TO CURE IT.


BACK ON EARTH...
STALKING ME... KIDNAPING ME... STRANDING ME ON ANOTHER WORLD... SHOOTING AT ME... YOU NAME IT, IT'S BEEN DONE TO ME IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS!
WELL, I'VE HAD ALL OF IT I CAN TAKE!
I DIDN'T ASK FOR THIS STUPID POWER!
AND EVER SINCE I'VE GOTTEN IT, I'VE HAD NOTHING BUT PEOPLE PICKING ON ME!
I REFUSE TO BE THE VICTIM ANYMORE!
ANYONE WHO TRIES TO BOTHER ME FROM NOW ON IS GOING TO FIND I CAN BOTHER RIGHT BACK!

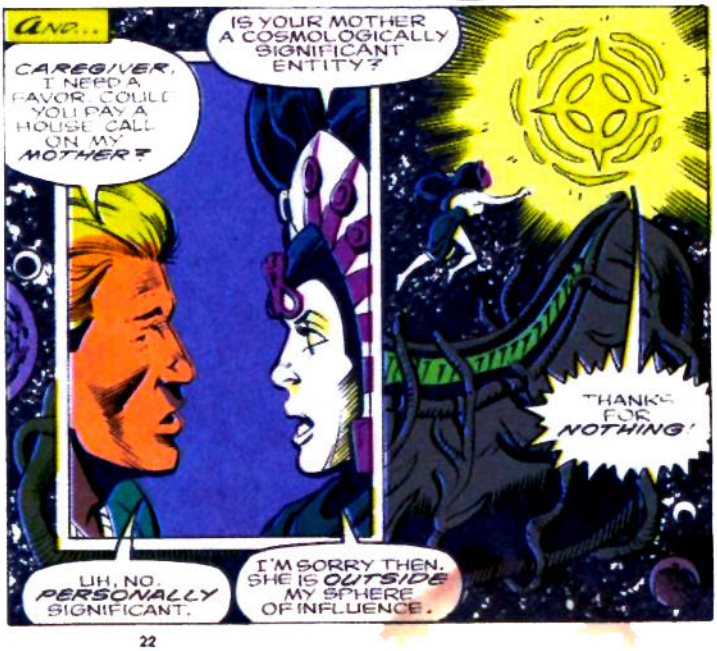

IT IS AS I FEARED. SHE IS MENTALLY UNSTABLE.
I HAD BETTER SUBDUE HER BEFORE SHE HARNESSES THE FULL EXTENT OF HER ENERGIES AGAINST ME!
KROOOOM
SURRENDER, KISMET! YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE ME ANGRIER THAN THIS!
LISTEN TO ME! YOU THINK YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT? IT'S JUST BEGINNING FOR YOU!
YOUR POWER IS NOT LIKE ANYTHING ELSE IN THIS COSMOS! AS LONG AS YOU HAVE IT, YOU'RE GOING TO BE THE TARGET OF ... OF BEINGS OF POWER WHO WANT WHAT YOU'VE GOT!
LIKE YOU!
NO, I JUST WANT TO SEE YOU USE IT RESPONSIBLY!
RIGHT! LIKE HOW YOU USE YOUR ZAP-BOLTS!

BACK IN THE BETA SCORPII SYSTEM...
YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE MORE INFO THAN THAT, EPPY! THIS LIBRARY-WORLD IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE ALL THE DATA IN THE ENTIRE GALAXY GATHERED HERE!
EXCUSE ME, MAN OF EARTH.

I STUDIED THE HISTORY OF XENOPATHOLOGY FOR A FEW SUN-CIRCLES AND AS I RECALL THE PHYSICIANS OF FARQUAR GATHERED TOGETHER ALL OF THE KNOWN STRATEGIES FOR TREATING THE MALADY...
YEAH?

...UNFORTUNATELY, UPON TESTING THEM, THE PHYSICIANS FOUND THAT NONE OF THESE TREATMENTS WORKED IN EVERY CASE NOR WERE THEY SUCCESSFUL WHEN USED ON OTHER SPECIES.
YOU SEE, THE CANCER CELLS ADAPT TO EACH

I'VE HEARD ENOUGH! TO HECK WITH YOU ACADEMICS! I'M GOING TO FIND A REAL HEALER!


AND...
CAREGIVER, I NEED A FAVOR. COULD YOU PAY A HOUSE CALL ON MY MOTHER?
IS YOUR MOTHER A COSMOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT ENTITY?
THANKS FOR NOTHING!
UH, NO. PERSONALLY SIGNIFICANT.
I'M SORRY THEN. SHE IS OUTSIDE MY SPHERE OF INFLUENCE.

EARTH.

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO *HOLD BACK* AS MUCH AS I CAN--

--SO I DON'T DO A NUMBER ON *NEW YORK CITY* LIKE I DID ON THE *BLACK FLEET!*

BUT I'M *NEVER* GOING TO BE RID OF THIS *BIG BLONDE TRAMP* IF I DON'T *UP MY JUICE* A WHOLE LOT MORE AND TEACH HER I'M NOT TO BE *MESSED WITH!*

THIS IS GETTING *NOWHERE!* SHE'S DEFLECTING *MY* ENERGY WITH HER *OWN!*

AND... I SENSE HER ENERGY SUDDENLY *GROWING EXPONENTIALLY!*

I MUST TRY TO FL--

VUDOO

NO...

...RUPTURED ALL MY POWER CELLS...

...I'M HURT...

...LOSING CONSC--

SPOOONK

THE DIMENSION OF MANIFESTATIONS, REALM OF ABSTRACT ENTITIES...
DO YOU HEAR ME, DEATH?
YOU AND YOUR ILK HAD BETTER STAY AWAY FROM MY MOTHER OR I'LL--
I'LL--
WHAT AM I DOING?
I CAN'T THREATEN DEATH! DO I EXPECT MY MOM TO BE MADE IMMORTAL?!?
SORRY TO HAVE BOTHERED YOU, MA'AM.
EARTH.
WHAT THE DEVIL IS THAT?!?
SOME SORT OF MYLAR BALLOON-- OR--
WARM TO THE TOUCH-
OH!
STARTING TO GLOW!

MOM, I...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO SOMETIMES.
WENDELL...?
MOM!
TRIED TO REACH YOU...
HAVEN'T BEEN HOME IN MONTHS, MOM. SORRY. I SHOULD STAY IN TOUCH BETTER..
I'M SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU, MOM.
DON'T BE, SONNER. YOU KNOW HOW TOUGH I AM.
YEAH, MOM... I KNOW.
GET SOME REST. I'LL BE HERE WHEN YOU WAKE UP.
NEW YORK...
SHE FELL INTO THE WATER... THERE WERE LOTS OF BUBBLES... THAT WAS OVER FIVE MINUTES AGO.
SHOULD I... SHOULD I DIVE UNDER, LOOK FOR HER?
I DOUBT I'D BE ABLE TO SEE A THING.
OH, MY GOD... WHAT HAVE I DONE?!?

SOON...

KAYLA?!? WHAT-- WHAT HAPPENED?!?

I THINK... I KILLED HER...

I MUST HAVE USED TOO MUCH FORCE...

HOLLY, I'VE GOT TO GET RID OF THIS POWER! I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M DOING WITH IT!

I'VE GOT TO LOSE IT BEFORE I MISUSE IT AGAIN!

I'LL TAKE IT, KAYLA.

I THOUGHT I HAD MY POWER UNDER CONTROL BUT I--

--I DON'T KNOW--

JUST TRY TO WISH IT UPON ME...SEE WHAT HAPPENS...
OH...ALL RIGHT.
HEY--- WHAT--?!?
HOLLY--?!?
NO, NOT ANYMORE.
AFTER ALL THESE MONTHS, PRETENDING TO BE HUMAN, CULTIVATING YOUR FRIENDSHIP, THE NEED FOR PRETENSE IS FINALLY PAST!
HOLLY STECKLEY IS GONE, KAYLA. NOW THERE IS ONLY ERISHKIGAL, EXPLORER OF DIMENSIONS, SEEKER OF TRUTH, AND SOON--
--THANKS TO THIS OBJECT OF UNSPEAKABLE POWER YOU'VE GIVEN ME-- MASTER OF THE MULTIVERSE!

NEXT:

Horizon of Holes

FEATURING:
THE MAN-THING!
SILVER SURFER!
MOONDRAGON!
THE SQUADRON SUPREME!